

Message Text

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67

ACTION CU-04

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R 101530Z SEP 76
FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
TO USIA WASHDC
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 9523

UNCLAS KINSHASA 7590

USIAC

STATE FOR AFC, CU/AF

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: FIKIN 77 SIE EXHIBITION

REF: USIA 26374

1. WHILE FIKIN 77 DIRECTOR AND DEPUTY DIRECTOR NOW BOTH UNAVAILABLE, POST HAS DISCUSSED REF. PROJECT WITH FIKIN TECHNICAL DIRECTOR WHO HAS RESPONSIBILITY FOR SPACE ALLOCATION AND DIRECT MANAGEMENT OF GROUNDS. HE ADVISES THAT THERE WOULD BE SPACE FOR THE DOME AND RATHER HEARTILY WELCOMED THE IDEA. UNDOUBTEDLY, HIS OPINION WILL HAVE AN INFLUENCE ON FINAL DECISION TO BE MADE BY FIKIN DIRECTOR GENERAL TUMBA TUNKADI, WHO SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE U.S. SEPT. 29 ON IV GRANT.

2. TUMBA DEPARTED ZAIRE FOR EUROPEAN TRAVEL BEFORE U.S. VISIT WITH EXPECTATION THAT USG PARTICIPATION IN FIKIN 77 WAS A LONG WAY FROM BEING ASSURED. AGENCY WILL THUS BE IN A GOOD TACTICAL POSITION TO GAIN HIS CONCURRENCE FOR DOME EXHIBIT IF PROPOSAL CAN BE MADE DURING HIS WASHINGTON VISIT.

3. WE PLAN TO PURSUE MATTER WITH DEPUTY DIRECTOR ON HIS RETURN TO KINSHASA NEXT WEEK. IT IS HIGHLY UNLIKELY, HOWEVER, THAT DEPUTY WOULD MAKE A DECISION OF THIS NATURE IN THE ABSENCE OF TUMBA. THUS, THE IDEAL TIME TO MAKE THE FIKIN 77 GEODESIC DOME PITCH IS WHILE TUMBA IS VISITING WASHINGTON, PARTIALLY IN HOPES OF DRUMMING
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UP USG PARTICIPATION IN NEXT JUNE'S FAIR.

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